[English]

Bridges in Assam

1505. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges constructed on the National Highways in Assam during the last three years;

(b) the location-wise details thereof;

(c) the ongoing projects in hand; and

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) 14 numbers. The location wise details are as under :

Sl.No.	Name and location of Bridge	Year of completion
1.	Minor bridge N. 17/1 including approaches on NH-51	03/96
2.	Minor Bridge No. 31/2 with approaches on NH-36	09/94
3.	Minor Bridge No. 32/1 on NH-36	03/95
4.	Bridge No. 30/4 on NH-36	03/95
5.	Minor Bridge No. 22/3 on NH-51	03/95
6.	Minor Bridge No. 126/1 on NH-36	03/95
7.	Bridge No. 46/2 on NH-36 including approaches	03/95
8.	Bridge No. 22/1 N.D. Section including aproaches on NH-36	03/95
9.	Bridge No. 31/3 N.D. Section including approaches on NH-36	03/95
10.	Bridge No. 47/2 including approaches on NH-36	03/95
11.	Longai Bridge at 261.00 km. of Rattachera-Badarpur Churaibari NH-44	1995-96
12.	Khorat Bridge at 196.96 km. of Battachera-Badarpur Churaibari NH-44	1994-95
13.	Katakhal Bridge at 19.15 km. of Badarpur-Silchar Jiribam on NH-53	1995-96
14.	Badri Bridge at 9.60 km. of Badarpur-Silchar Jiribam on NH-53	1993-94

(c) and (d) A list of on-going bridge projects indicating the expenditure incurred thereon is annexed as statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name and location of work	Expenditure upto Sept. 96 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Construction of Bridge No. 12/2 on NH 36	39.41
2.	Construction of Bridge and App. to Rail cum Road Bridge Across River Brahmaputra at Jogighopa on NH 31 B	144.60 (Most Share)
3.	Construction of Bridge No. 980/1 including Approaches on NH 31	39.71
4.	Construction of Bridge No. 105/3 on NH 36	59.85
5.	Reconstruction of Bridge Across River Jamuna (Br. No. 39/2) and the Approaches on NH 36	172.90
6.	Construction of Bridge No. 7/1 ND Sec on NH 36	7.67
7.	Construction of Bridge No. 2/1 including Approaches on NH 51	13.75
8.	Rconstruction of Minor Bridge No. 9/6 on NH 51	9.35
9.	Reconstruction of Minor Bridge No. 11/1, on NH 51	5.83
10.	Construction of Lunget BR. No. 48/2 including Approaches on NH 36	68.30
11.	Construction of Bridge No. 32/2 ND Sec including Approaches on NH 36	31.28
12.	Bridge Across River Bega at 35 KM at Mangaldei Town on NH 52	17.07
13.	Bridge No. 24/1 including the approaches on NH No. 36	6.19
14.	Ghagra Bridge at Km. 8.84 of Badarpur-Silchar Jiribam (NH-53)	15.00
15.	Dhaleshwari Bridge at Km. 24.85 of Badarpur-Silchar Jiribam (NH-53)	409.50
16.	Jiri Bridge at Km. 44.82 of Badarpur-Silchar Jiribam (NH-53)	221.81

[English]

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

1506. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have intention not to oppose the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir. Government have opposed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on principled grounds. The CTBT opened for signature on 24th September, 1996 in the United Nations at New York. India has made it clear that it would not sign the CTBT.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-US Relation

1507. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ms. Robin Raphel, the US Assistant Secretary of State, recently paid a visit to India, following her visits to Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, bilateral and international issues discussed with her; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel visited New Delhi from February 2-4, 1997. She also visited Calcutta on January 24 and Madras on February 1.

(b) and (c) Issues discussed with the Assistant Secretary included trade and investment cooperation between the two countries which has been on the upswing, and the Extradition Treaty which is close to finalization. Both sides affirmed that they would further strengthen cooperation in this field. Views were also exchanged on international developments and developments in the region, including the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Report on Major Irrigation Projects

1508. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given a detailed report regarding 19 major irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether out of 19 projects, 17 are pending with the State Government;

(c) the main reasons mentioned by the State Government for not providing the required information to the Union Government on these pending projects;

(d) whether the Union Government have sent reminders to the State Government to forward the replies on technical points raised by the CWC so that CWC can proceed with the fund appraisal; and

(e) if so, the time by which the State Government has agreed to furnish the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources had invited the attention of Andhra Pradesh regarding status of 19 major irrigation projects in March 1996 followed by a detailed review. Eight projects were found acceptable by the Advisory Committee upto June 1996 subject to obtaining the environmental clearance and compliance of other issues.

The other projects could be considered for clearance as soon as the State Government complies with the observations of the Central Apprising Agencies.

(d) and (e) The status of appraisal of pending projects is periodically reviewed by the officials of Central Water Commission with the officials of State Government. Periodical reminders are also issued.

Indo-US Relationship

1509. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level task force has recommended the United States that they should improve the relations with India;

(b) if so, whether the task force has also advised the American Administration that it is necessary to improve relations with India which will help in ensuring peace in South Asia;

(c) if so, whether the recent actions/decisions of US have shown that India and US are considering to improve their relations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) An Independent Task Force, in a Report sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, has recommended, *inter alia*, that with the end of the Cold war and the emergence of a new and changing international environment, the US must re-evaluate its policy toward South Asian countries, including India. It observes that a strong India, friendly to the United States, could play a key role in helping maintain stability and economic growth across Asia and could also become a valuable partner for enhanced trade and investment.

(c) and (d) Indo-US relations in the past few years have been marked expansion and diversification. Economic and commercial ties continue to be the centre-piece of the relationship, with the US remaining India's largest trading and investment partner. A new Extradition Treaty between India and the US is close to finalization. Both Governments are in favour of further strengthening cooperation in this field. A new Administration has just assumed office in the US following President Clinton's re-election for a second term. Both Governments are in the process of establishing early high level contacts.

Agitation by Employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1510. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :